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SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

COMPLETION OF CHING CHIANG CONSERVANCY PROJECT;
DENUNCIATION OF HUAI HO PROJECT CONTRACTORS

A Huai Ho Conservancy service cadre alleges that private construction companies installed inferior locks on the Huai Ho in Honan that have already partly washed out.

The General Headquarters of the Ching Chiang Flood Diversion Project in the Middle Yangtze River Valley has announced the completion of all phases of the project on 20 June 1952.

The T'ai-p'ing-k'ou inlet lock, located at the Northwest corner of the diversion basin, 1,054 meters long, is the largest lock in China. At the Southwest corner is the Huang-shan-t'ou regulation lock, its gates weighing 800 tons.

The Central People's Government had ordered the completion of the project before the beginning of the 1952 flood season. To complete the project, 7,800,000 cubic meters of earth were moved, 100,000 cubic meters of concrete poured, several tens of thousands of cubic meters of rock facing laid, several thousand tons of concrete reinforcing steel used and over 100 million ton-kilometers of transportation employed.

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CONSERVANCY CADRE SCORES CONTRACTORS -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 8 Mar 52

Li Tzu-liang, a cadre on the Huai Ho flood control project, writing as an eye witness, described some of the failures of construction work on the Chiao-t'ing Hu and Ma-chiang retention basin locks and the T'ung-hu submerged locks in Honan. He blamed the failures on four private contracting companies.

According to Li, the contractors, by padding their estimates, made a 1.7 billion yuan job cost the people 3.7 billion yuan. In addition, he charged that they used inferior materials and slipshod methods of work. Details of his charges are as follows:

The companies failed to provide an engineer on the construction site to oversee the job properly. The concrete they poured was poorly mixed, developed many pockets, and already leaks badly. Part of the Ma-chiang locks have already washed out. In constructing the steel lock gates, scraps of old plate metal, insecurely fastened together, were used instead of whole plates. For the attachment of the draw bar to the lock, specifications required the use of a solid piece of 1.2-inch steel. Instead, the contractors welded two 0.5-inch pieces together as a substitute.

The contract called for the steel lock gates to be inspected by officials and accepted before being moved to the installation site. The contractors hurriedly painted the gates red and rushed them to the site without notifying the inspectors. The bolts used were of inferior quality, and when many of them broke, concrete reinforcing rods were used as substitutes. Since the flood season was approaching, the contractors hastily and carelessly set up the lock gates and turned over the job as completed.

Li called for speedy investigation and punishment of these four companies.

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